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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9058
INFO RHMFIUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [AMED](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [TBIO](#) [KSAF](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#)
PINR, AMGT, MG, QA
SUBJECT: TFFLU01 QATAR H1N1 STATUS REPORT NUMBER 4

REF: DOHA 310
DOHA 307
DOHA 288

(SBU) KEY POINTS

-- There are no confirmed cases of H1N1 in Qatar as of May 14, 2009.

-- Due to fears over H1N1 in the U.S., all of Post's Public Affairs-sponsored Qatari travelers have canceled their summer trips to the U.S.

-- Thus far, Post has not seen a noticeable drop in visa applications for travel to the U.S., though it is probable that continued publicity and spread of the virus in the U.S. will prompt many Qataris to choose other destinations for their summer vacations.

End Key Points.

¶1. (U) There are no confirmed H1N1 cases in Qatar as of 1600 local on May 11, 2009.

¶2. (U) Three groups, consisting of more than 60 young Qatari men and women, have decided to cancel previously planned trips to the United States to study English and participate in Embassy-arranged cultural programming.

¶3. (SBU) The groups reported that students' parents were concerned about their children contracting H1N1. The Doha Youth Center, which was to lead two of the groups' visits, asked the Embassy to conduct an information session with the students and their parents, emphasizing the low likelihood of contracting or dying from the virus.

Action Request

¶4. (U) Embassy's research of USG websites has turned up only emergency preparedness information and fact sheets on avoiding the flu. We therefore request Department's assistance in developing coordinated talking points that can be used to accurately inform potential travelers to the United States of the current low likelihood of contracting H1N1 or dying from it.

¶5. (U) Embassy provides the following draft talking points for consideration:

-- The U.S. Government has confirmed about 3,000 cases of H1N1 in the United States, which have thus far resulted in three deaths.

-- In a country of more than 300 million people, this represents an infection rate of less than .001 percent.

-- The United States has not restricted travel in any way into or out of the country, and continues to monitor the development of H1N1 closely.

-- Many medical professionals believe that the transmission rate of H1N1 will slow during the summer months.

-- We continue to advise travelers to keep abreast of new developments and to follow healthy practices in order to avoid contracting viruses, just as they would normally do.

-- The U.S. Government encourages people from around the world to continue visiting the United States.

RATNEY